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Steve Driscoll Coast to Coast

August 20th - September 3rd Volume 12, Issue 16

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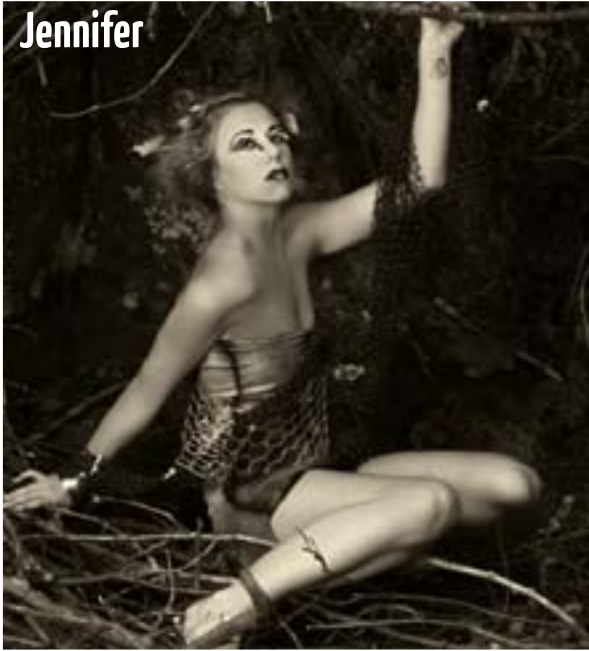
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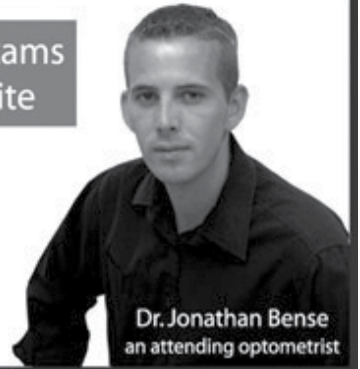
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THE OPPOSITION


BY KEVIN WOOLRIDGE

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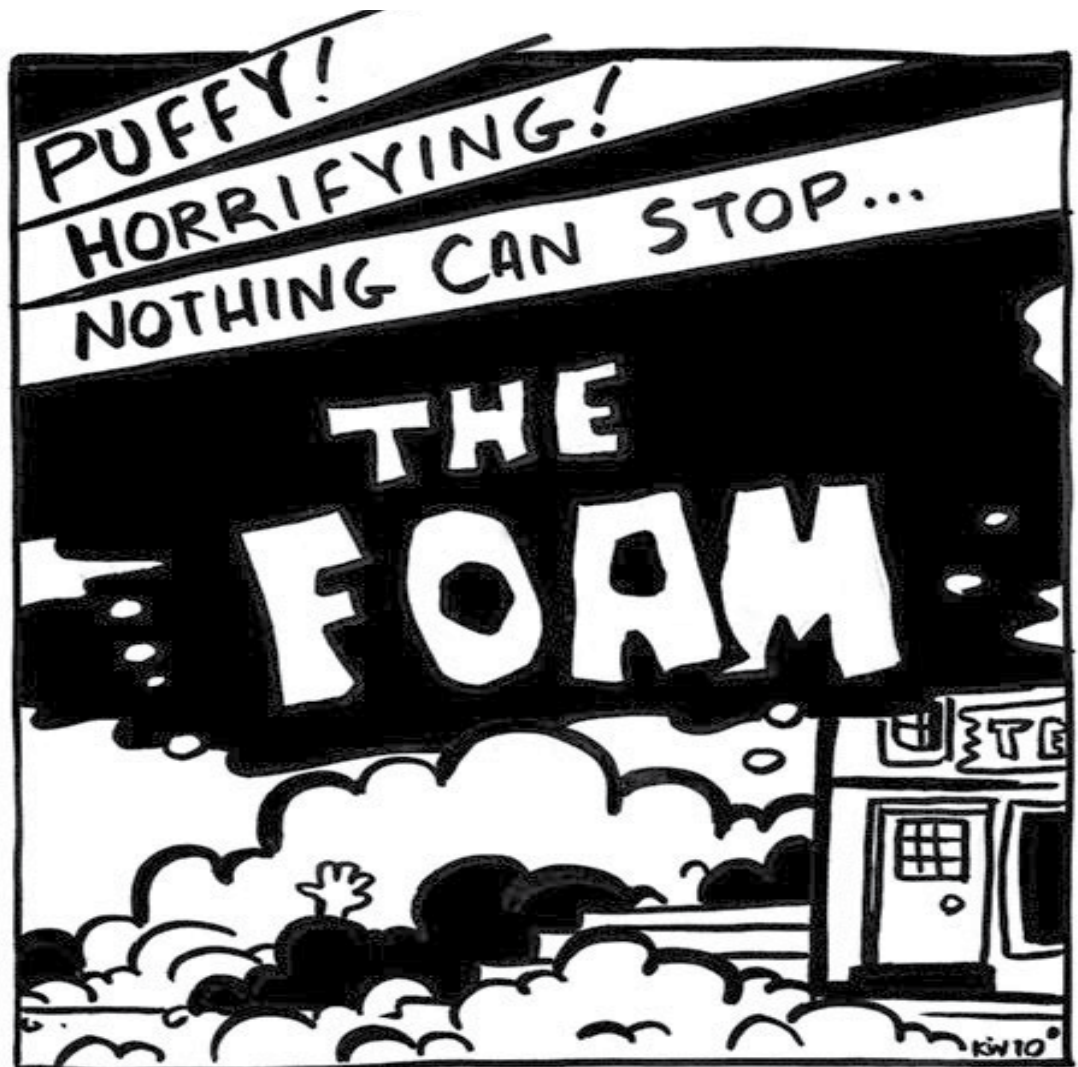
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SOUNDS

ROAD TRIP PLAYLISTS

FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD MUSIC AND BAD TASTE

BY JONNY HODDER



Summer is winding down. With Labour Day coming up, it's the perfect time to round up some friends, hop in the car, and barrel down the highway with the stereo blasting. The destination isn't of primary importance. It could be the beach for a day, a friend's cabin for the weekend, another province for an extended getaway; all are excellent choices.



The real deal breaker for a lot of trips, and the source of innumerable arguments, is deciding who gets to control the music. Usually, the responsibility – or, more accurately, the authority – falls to the driver, but

this can be a perilous decision, especially if the driver is the resident Techno-tard, Emo-kid, or Metalhead, among a group of friends with more diverse tastes. As many can attest, there's no better way to destroy a friendship than with six to eight hours of uninterrupted Benny Benassi remixes. Keeping this in mind, we can all agree that it's everyone's responsibility to make sure the roadtrip playlist caters to the middle ground of your friends' musical tastes. This might seem like an impossible task, but with a little creative song selection, you can nimbly walk this tightrope without offending, discouraging, or alienating your friends.

There are a few ways to go about selecting songs. You can choose a theme (Songs About Driving/ Travelling, Summer Songs, etc.), a "Covers Only" mix, or a musical era (70s Classic Rock, 80s Pop, 90s One Hit Wonders). Keep it general, and try not to discriminate based solely on a genre, unless of course you veto 90s country-crossover artists like Shania Twain or the Dixie Chicks. That just makes good sense. And, while we're on the topic, avoid "Terrible Music" themes; Billy Ray Cyrus, Good Charlotte, and 98 Degrees sounds like the beginning of an awesome 'joke playlist' before you hit the road, but realistically you'll be crazy before your first pitstop.

Be careful not to overdo any one theme; one hit wonders are great common grounds for nostalgic singalongs, even the songs that everyone knows but are ashamed to admit (*cough* Spice Girls' Wannabe), but there's a very thin line between an excited "Holy shit! I forgot about this song!" and a groaning "Holy shit! I wish I could forget this song." For example, Haddaway's *What is Love?* seems like a great 90s throwback until you realize it's nearly six minutes long and nobody knows the words. However, very few people can turn their nose up at *Love Shack*, if for no other reason than it's an opportunity to do your best impersonation of B-52s lead singer Fred Schneider. Go ahead, try to say "Hop in my Chrysler, it's as big as a whale! And it's about to set sail!" in a normal voice and with a straight face. You can't.

Covers and mash-ups can be an excellent chance to test the waters with a new song, band, or genre that that takes something familiar and repackages

it in a new and usually entertaining way. Girl Talk is a one-man mash-up savant who combines pop hits, classic rock and hip-hop beats from the last 30 years into 4-minute mega-mixes that each contain a little something for everybody. On the cover side, there are thousands of punk and ska covers of pop classics, most notably Me First & the Gimme Gimmes' discography, which feature covers of *Tainted Love*, *Uptown Girl* and *Country Roads* among others. On the opposite end, Hayseed Dixie are a group of savage bluegrass musicians who cover everything from Led Zeppelin to Outkast to a ridiculously catchy version of Scissor Sister's *I Don't Feel Like Dancing*.

The beauty of living in the age of the iPod is you can essentially make any or all of these lists, load 'em and queue them up in any order you prefer.

However, if you really want to up the ante, do an in-car competition by having each friend pick a theme or era and bring their own CD or playlist. When you reach your destination, vote on the success or failure of each mix. Best overall mix wins a prize (liquor and/or food always work). Godspeed.

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EVENT

THE DUKE TURNS 20

COLIN AND TERRY OPENED A BAR, BUT CREATED AN INSTITUTION
BY JOSHUA JAMIESON



The philosophy at the Duke of Duckworth hasn't changed in the two decades its doors have been open. Colin and Terry, the properties known on a first name basis say their motto has

always been, "Eat, drink and be merry (then pay your tab)," because of course – without that last part, the Duke wouldn't have become the downtown fixture it has become.

The duo picked up the Duke from John and Doug Cook some years back and Colin says of the exchange, "[we] added our own personal touch, recruited a great staff and the rest is history. And, behold we created a product that we are truly proud of." Clearly the product is one many locals are proud of as well, especially with the local watering hole moving on up; "We're having great fun with Republic of Doyle. Every now and then the cast and crew drop by for a drink after they finish work. Tourists and locals are constantly dropping in to take pictures and chat about the show. Their show has put The Duke on the national stage." It was also a hot spot for the world cup and between the two Terry says they "definitely sold a couple of extra pints a week for sure." When

it comes to soccer, they admit they're both fan's themselves but adds, "our customers obviously love it too. It's not just the World Cup, it's every weekend; we feature great soccer at The Duke. We just decorate the room; turn on the TV's and every day the fans just showed up. Brilliant!"

They say there's something special about the folks who head down, "our clientele is everyone; it's like the United Nations. We don't cater to any one segment of the population. Everyone's welcome and everyone's important."

In fact, because the community is so tight, Colin jokes for the future, "we're actually thinking of turning it into a retirement community. We're getting older, our customers are getting older but we are all still having way too much fun to stop the party. We've put our hearts and souls into this pub and we'll keep on going as long as people still want to come and enjoy. Twenty more golf tournaments, twenty more anniversary parties and twenty more seasons of Republic of Doyle."

On a final word, the pair said, "just a huge thank you to our customers and staff." Here's to 20 more. The Duke is located at 325 Duckworth Street.

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ART

24 HOUR ART MARATHON

A.K.A. HAM
BY GARY MOORE

Eleven years ago it started with the 24 Hour Art Marathon, a primary fundraiser for Eastern Edge Gallery. Today it has evolved into a ten day festival, with the original 24 Hour Art Marathon capping off the ten day extravaganza, and still doing its part as a major fundraiser for Eastern Edge Gallery. The mandate of Eastern Edge Gallery is to act as the point of exchange where you can find out what's going on in contemporary visual art on a local, national and international level.

The 24 Hour Art Marathon is not your typical fundraiser, it's become a staple in the art community and a staple for Eastern Edge Gallery, who hope to raise \$20,000 before the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The money will go towards developing the gallery and paying a second employee. But most of the funds raised will go towards Eastern Edge Gallery's outreach and educational programming, plus upgrading equipment and the size of the physical space of the gallery.

Executive Director, Michelle Bush, has watched the 24 Hour Art Marathon grow, over the past seven years, from forty to fifty artists and eight bands with the event held over twenty four hours. "It is now a week long, has a family launch and special programming, has outdoor and off site art installations, has international and national artists throughout the programming, the participants have doubled to our maximum capacity of 100 and we

have two music venues. We still don't have enough space for everyone who wants to attend and participate. We're working on it! We love it!"

"The atmosphere can be chaotic, but it's a happy chaos" describes James Michael McDonald, the Festival Coordinator, on what to expect during the 24 Hour Art Marathon. "Throughout the week, we have all kinds of events, from kids' workshops to live performance and music, to installation pieces around the city. Someone attending can expect the unexpected, as there is such a wide array of events and performances this year."

With the ten day event having kicked off August 13, the final weekend holds the 24 Hour Art Marathon, beginning Saturday, August 21 including events; "\$TORE Lalie Douglas, Come In, Go Away with Pasha Malla and Stefanie Bruce, I Love... Pick-Me-Up Artists Collective, Lantern Parade at dark, and Soapbox series just to highlight some of the events. The festival ends on Sunday August 22 with an exhibition and auction. For a full schedule of events visit <http://24hourartmarathon.wordpress.com> or <http://www.easternedge.ca>.

"Its an amazing opportunity to make art and share with your peers, and meet professional artists who can mentor younger artists. Everyone interacts with the public and meets all the other invited artists" adds Michelle Bush.

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JUST 2 CRAFTY

COLOURING YOUR WORLD

ADDING INTEREST AND DIMENSION TO YOUR PROJECTS
BY DEBBY WINTERS



Our lives are very colourful - green trees, blue sky, red, yellow and white houses. Take all these beautiful hues and add them to your scrapbook pages and greeting cards!

There are many ways to apply colour to your paper craft projects. One easy and enjoyable way is to colour in your stamped images. You can use crayons, paints, watercolour pencils, gel pens, markers or many other mediums.

Currently, many crafters and artists make their images come to life using Copic Markers. These very high quality makers are available at local scrapbooking and rubber stamp stores as well as online. These are definitely not a child's marker and were originally created 25 years ago with the professional designer in mind. Over the last ten years, they have gained popularity with Menga artists and paper crafters.

These non-toxic alcohol based markers are available in 334 colours and provide guaranteed colour consistency. They are refillable, have replaceable nibs

that are guaranteed not to dry out for three years. They come in two types: the Sketch marker and the less expensive Chio makers. Most crafters prefer the Sketch markers.

They have a round square shape that is easy to manipulate. You can use either the paintbrush like tip or the chisel tip depending on what you are colouring.

When applying colour, no matter what you are using, the basic method is the same. Start with your lightest colour and then graduate to darker ones to add shading. You can use a white marker to add highlights



on your finished work. The stamped image is your guide by following where the ink is heavier, showing you where you would use the darker colours. If you are using Copic markers, choose a gradient of colours that are about two colours apart, this will allow for easy shading. The markers also have a colourless blender

marker, which is useful for picking up colour if you go outside the lines! It can also be used to lighten an area by pressing it lightly on your work, then just colour off the tip of the marker on a piece of scrap paper to clean it.

Larger images are the best to start with as they give you more room to manipulate your colours. You do not have to colour in the whole image either, you can add touches of colour here and there as an accent. Once you get used to colouring and develop a style of your own there are lots of different techniques that you can use as well.

Many stores and companies offer classes to help you get started and find new ways of doing things. You can also find many tutorials on line. The important thing is to be fearless in your exploration and always remember that every piece of paper has two sides! If you do something, you do not like just flip it over!

For more information and on line content go to <http://www.just2crafty.blogspot.com>.

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COVER

ARTIST, PATRIOT, EXPLORER

STEVE DRISCOLL OPENING NEW EXHIBIT AT BIANCA'S
BY DEBBY WINTERS

The first thing that strikes you is the color, the effective use of contrast and the three dimensional feel of the painting. They're a mixture of abstract and surreal creating a processed visual image. You want to reach out and touch them. Steve Driscoll has been painting since he was a teenager, starting with landscapes and traditional artist mediums. As he dove into the creative process, he found himself more interested in the paint than the picture. This brought him on an amazing journey through the use and manipulation of different media and the creation of beautiful and breathtaking works of art. Driscoll is also a Canadian to his roots, based in Toronto, he shows in museums on both the east and west coasts. "I am a Canadian artist. I paint my surroundings and love where I am. I have showed internationally but it's always the most fun to show at home. This fall will be lots of fun because I get the chance to show in St. John's first, Vancouver second, then Toronto. Most of the year I spend my time in an artificially lit box staring at the wall and waiting for paint to dry. This is what I do because it is my love, but getting to show it off and meet new people is always a blast."

You will be able to see these works at his exhibition at Bianca's on Water Street opening Thursday, August 26 and continuing through September.

Driscoll describes the beginning of his creative adventure; "As I learned more about the materials, my work changed. There has always been a relationship between learning something new in the studio and a new experience in life. As I find new ways to use the paint or a new colour my eyes open to my surroundings. I notice more things in day-to-day life that relate to that new find in the studio. The reverse is also true. I find an image or scene that I have no idea how I would translate to paint, and that starts an experimentation in the studio. That is how the process has been working up to now."

Drawing inspiration from some of his favourite artists, Patterson Ewen, Peter Doig, David Milne, Tom Thompson as well as the world around him, Driscoll creates non-static visual images ranging from smaller canvases to giant breathtaking works of art like *Canopy* - a painting of a group of birch trees surround by the golden hue of fall leaves. The painting literally draws you in as if you were standing in a forest of the silver and yellow clothed trees. To Driscoll size matters, at least when choosing the size of a finished piece, "I find that particular images demand certain sizes. Small works tend to be more intimate and the images become more like memories, small and stored away. Grand scale works are more about an experience, less about the specific, they tend to encompass the viewer in an environment. I like working in a relatively large format because you must confront the painting much as you would a tree in front of you. Some of the most recent inspirations have been trips into the woods. I love portaging and camping, and have drawn many influences and images from trips that I have been on. I have a real fondness to road trips and the small towns along the way. Sites I see in passing always give me joy," Driscoll explains.



Evening Freeze (33" x 44")

with the warm the of colour emanating from within. A cluster of birch trees in the front lends suggestion of

Behind the House may have come from one of these trips. This 33" x 44" piece depicts a home in winter, focusing on the garage, with the warm the of colour emanating from within. A cluster of birch trees in the front lends suggestion of



Driscoll, self portrait, in front of Canopy (60" x 60")

the location as being rural and close to the woods. *Evening Freeze* also brings you on a wilderness journey. The dark silhouette of trees outlined against a bright fuchsia sunset as they rim a partially frozen pond with the almost liquid reflection in the yet unfrozen water edged by sliver thin ice; abstract, yet tangible.

Driscoll utilizes the industrial material urethane in his works; he explains he began his experiment with this medium. "I used it to seal in a drawing one time, spilled some in a bucket of water, that held my butts, and it made a skin on the surface. A few weeks later, I had a 4' x 9' pool of water in my studio and I was pouring the stuff intentionally. Six months later, I had a pool of just urethane with 70 gallons in it. My way of using it has changed over the years. I think I liked the idea that it wasn't a traditional art medium so no one could teach me anything about it. I had to learn from the ground up, and I'm still learning new things even after ten years."

When asked if there are other mediums he'd like to experiment with Driscoll says, "yes, I'm very excited to build a stone wall. I don't think it'll end up in a show but it is just one of my obsessions. I'm sure my paint and the ways I use it will change on a frequent basis. If they don't then I will just get bored, and what is the fun of that." For more information go to <http://www.stevedriscoll.com> or <http://jamesbaird.ca>.

MY SPACE

MELANIE CAINES

STRIKING THE PERFECT BALANCE FOR LIFE'S PASSIONS
BY SKYE TOSTOWARYK



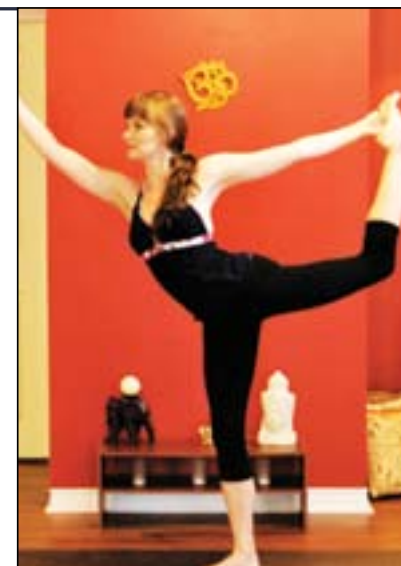
Yoga teacher and actress, Melanie Caines explains the importance of balance while showing her favorite place to create a sense of tranquil equilibrium.

Melanie Caines is the owner and operator of Nova Yoga, a yoga studio located at the top of Longs Hill. Melanie has learned to find a peaceful balance between her two passions: yoga and acting. Since January of 2010 Melanie has been thrilled to share her passion for yoga with others and has still been able to incorporate her film career into her busy schedule. You can catch her in a few local short films this year and may have already seen her star in *AfterImage* a play held at the LSPU hall this summer. She has completed her two-hundred hour Vinyasa

Teacher Training at Sonic Yoga in New York City. She is currently working on Core Strength Vinyasa Yoga Certification with Sadie Nardini and is looking forward to enhancing her current classes with her extension of yoga training. At Nova Yoga, Melanie offers various levels of Vinyasa/Flow Yoga, as well as Prenatal Yoga and yoga for children. Melanie's goal for Nova Yoga was to create a "cozy oasis in the middle of a busy city where people can come and truly enjoy practicing." She can accommodate up to twenty yogis and loves a full class "the energy and spirit in the room is awesome!" exclaims Melanie.

The photo of Melanie's two favorite things includes a pair of Tibetan Bells from New York and a statue of Ganesha, the Hindu God. "I use [the Tibetan Bells] to guide people out of Savasana, or Relaxation. I just love the sound: peaceful, pleasant, yet powerful

at the same time." The Statue is a representation of "the Remover of Obstacles and ... is one of my favorite pieces in the studio."



Between acting and running a business it's always important to make time for relaxation and mindfulness. It is this balance that Melanie has achieved through her yoga training and her strategically designed studio that she is proud to share with anyone searching for harmony between busy hectic schedules.

CHEERS

CHRISTINA ANSTEY

FROM THE GYPSY TEA ROOM
BY JOSHUA JAMIESON

With almost a year and a half under her belt at the Gypsy Tea Room, Christina Anstey has seen some pretty shocking sites, "a man was stabbed outside of the restaurant once and decided to wander in, it was pretty crazy." Christina adds however that most days are less eventful and her style is "very casual but it depends on who the customer is. Everyone expects different things, you really need to know how to read people in this business."

She got started in the line of work while she was studying. "While in university in Toronto my friend

suggested I work with her at Houston's so I passed in a resume and started as a hostess, then worked my way up from there!"

Over the course of her career she's perfected her signature drink and for Christina, that's "a Red Lotus, which is a Lychee Martini - Mmm!"

They must do the trick for patrons as she doesn't have any tips for conversation starters at the bar, "when people have had enough to drink they will share anything and everything. There isn't much I

haven't heard!

That's true for pick up lines as well, "while asking a man how he would like his eggs for his eggs benedict he replied, poached as soft as your skin, and that's really soft!"

The Gypsy Tea Room is located at 315 Water Street and features a brunch, lunch and dinner menu as well as a lounge menu throughout the day.



TOUR

ROCKIN' THE UPPER EAST SIDE

MUSIC FESTIVAL LINE UP IS STAR STUDED
BY GARY MOORE

It's not very often you wish for an ultimate summer ending that includes; Grammy winning musicians with over ten million records sold, and a musical library of billboard hits, and have that ending become reality.

It will have people staying in the city limits this Labour Day weekend. Newfoundland residents will be coming from all over to attend Rockin' The Upper East Side Music Festival. Sunday, September 5, Mount Pearl will get an influx of concert goers who will take in one of the biggest music festivals to hit the province.

The same week they release their ninth studio album Goo Goo Dolls will headline Rockin' The Upper East Side Music Festival. Celebrating the release of *Something For The Rest Of Us* (released August 31, 2010) Goo Goo Dolls, who have appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno more than any other musical act, will close the night out with a set filled with lyrics that will be sung by thousands of people in attendance. Goo Goo Dolls have always connected with listeners through, lead singer, John Rzeznik's lyrics and his prominent voice.

The release of *Something For The Rest Of Us* is already generating buzz and living up to Goo Goo Dolls' reputation to connect with lyrics and catchy tunes. The first single, *Home*, is becoming a staple on summer soundtracks and playlists.

"I wanted some of the material on this album to address the disillusionment of the difficult period we live in; I wanted to give a voice to the emotional uncertainty that accompanies hard times. So many people are struggling to keep it together through tough economic conditions and two wars that seem to have no end in sight. The ones who bear the brunt of these burdens are everyday people. That's who I want to speak to," shares Rzeznik.

Rockin' The Upper East Side is armed with a musical act for everyone. Also on the bill is The Fray, another band whose known to dominate the airwaves and radio station playlists. Hitting it big and making a name for themselves worldwide in 2005 with *How To Save A Life*. The Fray followed up in early 2009 with a self titled sophomore album, and immediately

returned to the billboard charts, where they left off. The Fray share much the same audience as Goo Goo Dolls, and the thought of both being on the same bill in Newfoundland, has had people talking and creating a buzz about this festival all summer.

Also joining the lineup, and bringing a catalogue of questionable, but buzz-worthy lyrics, is Ke\$ha. Lifehouse, Kardinal Offishall and Newfoundland's own Christa Borden will also be apart of the festival, being held in Mount Pearl, at the Glacier Concert Park.



General Admission is \$59.50, a limited number of Gold Circle tickets are \$79.50 and all-inclusive Glacier Cabana tickets are available for \$199.50 plus tax and service charge. For more information on Rockin' The Upper East Side Music Festival and a list of locations to buy tickets visit <http://rockintheuppereastside.com>.

STEVE DRISCOLL



This Time of Year, Urethane on board, 60x60", 2010

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MY STYLE

RUTH LAWRENCE

WRITER & ACTRESS REVEALS BEST SHOPPING SPOTS FOR EVERYDAY STYLE FOR BUSY SINGLE MOMS

BY SKYE TOSTOWARYK

From vintage Betsey Johnson to unique Voila Blanca accessories, Ruth Lawrence has a complete wardrobe composed of Canadian designers, reused vintage treasures and intricate local designs. Not only does she compose her daily wardrobe with eloquent flair and precision, she also applies these outstanding qualities to her work with film and writing. Ruth works for the Nickel Film Festival and has written/starred in *Sweet Pickle* a short film featured in an assortment of film festivals.

The Outfit

In this photo, the starlet is sporting a peach, bias cut summer dress by Betsey Johnson with a coral cotton coat by individual and green embossed Bos and Cos shoes all extracted from all corners of Newfoundland, including Clarenville, Grandfalls and of course, St. John's. The outfit is completed with a clutch from Johnny Ruth and jewelry by Vancouver based You Gotta Be Beading.

Style Advice and Tips

Ruth Lawrence prefers to shop local; her inventory of local favorite shops include Twisted Sisters, Johnny Ruth and August and Lotta. All conveniently located in the heart of St. John's on Water Street. For clothing, Ruth always searches for Canadian labels, for shoes she prefers brands based out of Portugal, Spain and Italy. She likes the strength and wear-ability of European footwear and the captivating beauty of every pair produced by the crafty, creative Europeans.

Ruth also enjoys purchasing vintage reused, recycled finds from secondhand designer to thrift store treasures, Model Citizens is always a downtown shopping must and she reveals that Sandy's in Clarenville has an extensive collection of hidden gems. Ruth expands her unique wardrobe by shopping while on business travels, "but I try to buy one great thing" explains the experienced fashionista. "In the past few years, work has taken me to Toronto a lot so my store suggestions there would be Ballisi, Damsels, Bodyblu and John Fluevog."

Ruth describes her personal style as contemporary and feminine. When shopping for new clothing Ruth always keeps in mind the color and the fit; she loves bold colors and anything that hugs her body comfortably. Ruth has been given most of the pieces she loves "sometimes through clothing exchanges, sometimes [my friends] have a special piece to pass on and I happily accept. My friends have kept me well dressed," jokes Ruth.

As a final piece of advice Ruth explains that fashion is one of the visual arts. "I appreciate it like I do theatre, film, books, music. There are lots of famous names that are brilliant but to be honest, I'm influenced by the style of my friends and designers that are in closest proximity to me. They are a very diverse crowd and I'm lucky they have such great taste." Ruth believes that we have a burgeoning fashion industry. "The Anna Templeton Centre is producing

some fantastic new designers and there are people who have trained as costume designers, like Peggy Hogan, Sara Hodder, Karen Pottle, Barry Buckle for example, who have lines that must be supported and encouraged. Who better to design for and in spite of this weather than the ones who head out in it each day. They are my biggest influences and I thank them for it."

To conclude Ruth advises that aspiring fashion connoisseurs should "wear things that fit well and are the best quality you can afford. In fabrics, go for wool, silk, cotton, linen and leather and as much as possible, buy local."



PRO TIPS

SUMMER BEAUTY TIPS

FROM LOCAL MAKEUP ARTIST, KRISTINA SHERIDAN

BY SKYE TOSTOWARYK

Kristina Sheridan is a MUN graduate with an Honors Degree in Kinesiology. She's now a graduate student completing her Masters in Medicine. Having worked in the Cosmetics Department at Shoppers Drug Mart for over 10 years, she's gained a lot of experience with makeup. She was one of the make-up artists for the Running with Scissors Textile Fashion Show. Kristina also models and is a burlesque dancer with the Burly Q Babies. She now works for Sensuality, a locally owned business opened in 2006 specializing in sexual education.

So you are at the beach and decide to go in for a quick refreshing dip in the water when you come out your friend looks at you like you have two heads. You have mascara all over your face. Kristina says, "next time remember your waterproof mascara! A favorite of mine is Covergirl LashExact waterproof mascara, its non-clumping, long-lasting formula gives you beautifully-defined lashes that will not streak when you hop in the water for a dip."

Ever find your make-up will not stay put? Your eyelids creasing and bronzer rubbing off? Try a setter for your make-up. T-VAL offers a cheap (\$10 per bottle) relaxing facial mist called "Good night, Mister", it is

made with aloe, and a relaxing blend of lavender, geranium and camomille essential oils.

Who wants a lobster red face from the sun? But, you also don't want greasy sunscreen on your face. "Try Covergirl Simply Ageless foundation. The formula is non-greasy and contains Olay Regenerist Serum as well as SPF 22 to prevent sunburn. This foundation was clinically shown to provide improvement in skin condition in just four weeks!"



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FILM

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

STARRING JULIANNE MOORE, ANNETTE BENING & MARK RUFFALO

BY TIM CONWAY



106 min.
*** (three stars)

With the impending departure of his half-sister, Joni, it's now or never for Laser. Having observed the close father-son relationship that his friend Clay enjoys, Laser longs to connect with his biological father, more than likely hoping he can develop the same kind of bond that his buddy has with his dad. Unfortunately, since Laser had been conceived with

the help of an anonymous sperm donor, he's not yet old enough to approach the sperm bank to request the contact information.

His parents would have no problem getting the information for him, but the notion of enlisting their help seems to be the kind of thing that teen nightmares are made of. Fortunately, Joni, who's just turned eighteen, has the same biological father. Both kids are markedly different individuals, but they get along fairly well, and while Joni has no interest in the matter, she gives in to her brother's plea, and makes the call.

Having overcome the first hurdle, Laser and Joni make contact with the man, Paul, who agrees to meet them. It's an awkward event, but they get on well enough that the kids figure that they're interested in keeping in touch with guy, and even spending some time with him. Despite the exciting prospect of this new direction in their lives, they're still more than a little reluctant to broach the subject to their parents.

The Kids Are All Right tells a story that's as contemporary as they get, yet it is very much a timeless tale of family dynamics. Kids, parents, marriage, the whole shebang presents a yaffle of highs and lows, with a tonne of effort in between. Such elements as sperm donors and same-sex couples are mere details within the larger context of making a family work. Whether or not this picture gets it right is certainly subject to scrutiny and debate, but it does a convincing job of it.

In addition to solid storytelling, the performances of Annette Bening as Nic and Julianne Moore as her wife Jules, are amongst their personal best. As Paul, Mark Ruffalo is as reliable as ever and both of the younger players turn in work that is on par with that of their more experienced cast members. The result is a slice-of-life film that creates a believable world that draws an audience into it, and when the time comes to leave it behind, there's reluctance to go. There is a fair bit of comedy here amongst the drama, and most of it is genuine humour which helps reinforce a sense



of realism and authority. While a couple of aspects are unconventional, in terms of what you usually get in a movie at this time of year, there's little that plays out that seems contrived.

This is all great, for the most part, but it leaves a well made film that simply puts a few twists into an otherwise familiar story. Then again, considering the dynamics at play, it's probably the most effective way of presenting a number of ideas without coming across as preachy or sensational. The fact that this isn't some concoction of an overactive imagination is precisely the point.

It's difficult to imagine what *The Kids Are All Right* would have been if it had been developed within the Hollywood studio system, but chances are that you need not speculate for long. Within a year or two, it shouldn't be a surprise when a mainstream movie or television series rolls out, where the concept of a married couple of the same gender is treated as a gimmick, upon which to hang an endless array of lame gags. Until then, relax and enjoy an insightful motion picture that gently reminds that you can change up the players, but in the family arena, it's all the same game.

5 FAVES

THE ARTISTS OF COME ALL YE!

CRAFT COUNCIL CELEBRATES NEWFOUNDLAND FOLK

BY ALLISON MURRAY

A cultural group of people can often be defined by its mythos, music, storytelling and cuisine. With respect to Newfoundland, it is the folk music that the world most commonly associates with a distinctly unique culture that has been the product of ancestry, geography and generation surpassing stories. It is this part of Newfoundland culture that will be on display in the exhibit *Come All Ye! Second Verse* which begins August 28 at the Craft Council Gallery. The exhibit has been formed with printmaker Caroline Clarke and self taught woodworkers and carvers Pam Dorey and Cara Kansala.

Current spoke with the three artists and asked what their five favourite features of Newfoundland folk music were, that the exhibit brings to light. Under the name *Cara's Joy*, founded in 2003, Kansala and Dorey begin the groups five faves by noting that Newfoundland folk music is "the celebration of place. It seems almost every cove, bay, and tickle has its own song which tells the story of its community and people."

Clarke, who began printmaking in 2004, adds the exhibit highlights the fact that "folk music is alive and well in Newfoundland and new songs are being written all the time." Following Clarke's observances of Newfoundland's strong musical background and its continuing strength Kansala and Dorey note the once common practice of mummering. "We love the tradition

of mummering and how it blends together aspects of theatre, music, and dance."

With such traditions surrounding our folk music, not only does it provide entertainment but in many cases they provide insight into who we are. As British Columbia native, Caroline Clarke continues their five faves by saying, "folk music can tell us so much about life and about humankind."

And, Ontario born Cara Kansala and Newfoundland native Pam Dorey of *Cara's Joy* conclude by saying,

"most importantly, we appreciate how Newfoundland folk music brings people together and provides us all with a good excuse for a kitchen party."

Using their lively, individual artistic mediums, Caroline Clarke, Pam Dorey and Cara Kansala spotlight these and many other aspects of the unique traditions, stylings, and heritage of Newfoundland folk music. *Come All Ye! Second Verse* runs August 28 to October 3 at the Craft Council Gallery, on Duckworth Street. For information on the exhibit and artists visit <http://www.craftcouncil.nl.ca>.

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DATING

ITCHY FINGERS

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH WHEN IT COMES TO RESEARCH?

BY TARA LEHMAN



Would it astonish you to know that 43% of singles Google someone before their first date? Search engines call out: "I can satisfy your curiosity!" and "It'll only take a minute!" and "What harm can it do?" Your itchy fingers are poised as you wonder if you'd appreciate someone Googling you, and next thing you know, you've typed their name and you're either disappointed there's nothing to be found or your heart skips because you uncovered nuggets of information. Two unfair things happen as soon as you Google your date. You form an opinion about them, right or wrong, before they've been given the chance to tell you about themselves and you're taking the excitement and mystery of getting to know one another away. Then there's whether or not you admit you Googled them. Unless you can backpeddle out of the awkward "I'm a stalker" moment, don't tell them on your first date.

Having to pretend you don't know something is rather ridiculous, but you're better off until you're confident they'll see humour in the fact you played FBI agent. Now, let's back up. What if you don't like what Google says? Do you believe everything you read and cancel or do you give them the benefit of the doubt? Quite the predicament, only you can answer the question.

If forced to choose between snooping through someone's drawers while they're in the shower or Googling them, hands down Google. If it's on the internet it's likely a matter of public knowledge whereas you can't deny going through someone's personal things behind their back is crossing a line. You can try to convince yourself that Googling is a small extension of online dating, it's not. The internet is a jumble of information, useful and useless, all of which we don't

necessarily have control over and therefore shouldn't always trust. Things can be posted that you aren't even aware of. Most likely, the information is harmless, yet you may also find items that are irrelevant or incorrect. The more you learn online, the less room you have for fun, old-fashioned face-to-face conversation, and those intimate forms of communication. All of that said, since someone may be looking you up online, maybe Google yourself to make sure you like what you find!

Tara runs D8 Night, arranging speed dating events, blind dates, online consultations and more. Dial 754-DATE, Facebook Group: D8 Night or www.lovediva.ca

REVIEW

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

RCA & NDW PRODUCE SOLID SHOW AND CALLED IT BROKEN ACCIDENTS

BY JOSHUA JAMIESON



Broken Accidents, based on a short story collection of the same name by Philip Arima (Insomniac Press), was adapted by Joel Hynes and directed by Lois Brown. The pair have been working on their adaptation, and extension, since 2007 leading to opening night on August 11 at the LSPU Hall. Despite the Hall's recent (and impressive) facelift, it still has the warm familiar feeling inside the classic black box, to which the show was tailored for. The LSPU Hall actively supported development with Neighborhood Dance Works, allowing the show to come to life directly in the space. It was evident that the show fit perfectly – but was adaptable should it tour, a distinct possibility. The cast includes Mark Bath, Susan Kent, Molly Graham, Lisa Porter, Peter Trostmer, Phil Winters and Sarah Joy Stoker who also had a part to play in creative concept.

The show is described as having dark humour, and it does. The story largely revolves around three stories including a woman (Stoker) coming to terms with her partner's suicide (Trostmer), a medical duo – one of whom just euthanized his parents that day in a two for one deal (Bath and Porter) and Donna (Kent) who has casual but smitten phone conversations with Jesus (Winters). Set in the future, a series of voice over announcements from the 'new government' dot

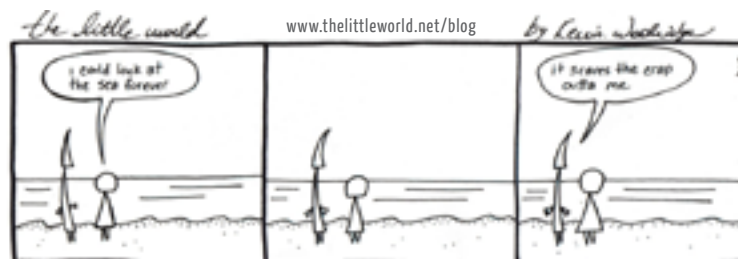
throughout, and it seems clear that the administration is oppressive, even though each news bulletin is extroed with a very lighthearted digital-age chime. Trostmer's character has a secret, which aren't allowed, and one scene where he told a story of climbing a great distance on his knees particularly stood out. The set was bare save for props that created space, in this case a simple black box represented the secret he carried before it became a pedestal for him to stand on with a lighting effect that blasted his silhouette on the back wall – a technique by Robert Gautier used just enough in other parts of the show. Despite the narrow platform, and the fact that Trostmer spends the majority of the show in briefs, his delivery is solid and confident.

While her partner wrestled with his secret (leading to his demise), Stoker must deal with the loss. One solidly choreographed number between the two had Trostmer dancing with Stoker while they both sang lyrics with the cast supporting with humming off stage. Stoker, with her legs on his shoulders, sang the word "remember" as she exhaled, falling backwards to hang upside down, which was beautiful. The a

cappella was uniquely refreshing in a soundscape by Lori Clarke that is largely digital and remixed, which in and of itself is a feature of the production. For medically styled scenes it was reminiscent of Bjork at points and Jesus' hold music also stood out.

Jesus is at the other end of Citywide Domestic Help which Donna consults to do even the simplest of tasks, making condensed soup. The two offer much of the show's comic relief, which is needed opposite the idea of memory recall and philosophical questions asked like, "what's wrong with not knowing?"

Broken Accidents is a show that's not just worth seeing, it's worth a second watch to make sure you get it all.





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LISTINGS

WHAT'S ON!

CHECK OUR LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, August 20

Club One: The Insiders
 Dusk: The Dana Parsons Project
 Greensleeves: Greg Bolger
 Junctions: Avalonia
 Konfusion: DJ Sina
 Liquid: Dr. Drake
 Quidi Vidi Brewery: Happy Hour 'till 8
 Spin: Funktastic Friday w/Leo van Ulden & Kid Cue
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 The Fat Cat: Denis Parker & Scott Goudie Band
 The Ship: Mark Bragg & The Butchers
 Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays w/DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Allyson Smith

SATURDAY, August 21

Greensleeves: Best Kind
 Spin: Mike the Tailor
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Allyson Smith

SUNDAY, August 22

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
 O'Reilly's: Sing-a-long Jam Session
 Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex

MONDAY, August 23

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
 Loft 709: Martini Monday's w/DJ Diamond
 O'Reilly's: Sing-a-long Jam Sesson
 Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays: Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, August 24

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band
 Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
 Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, August 25

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Junctions: Adam Baxter
 The Fat Cat: Chris Kriby (acoustic)
 The Rock House: (8:30PM, \$5) Salsa

On the Rock weekly salsa dancing
 The Ship: Folk Night
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Wacky Wednesday's w/ Dave White

THURSDAY, August 26

Biancas: Steve Driscoll Art Show
 Greensleeves: Unlisted
 Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson & Arthur O'Brien
 O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
 Reid Theatre: Florence, a Docudance
 Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle
 Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee

FRIDAY, August 27

Greensleeves: Justin Fancy & Chad Murphy
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Tracey MacDonald

SATURDAY, August 28

Greensleeves: Justin Fancy & Chad Murphy
 Loft 709: Dance League Saturday w/ DJ NuRock
 Spin: Seamless Saturday w/Mike the Tailor
 Stanley's: (10PM) Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Tracey MacDonald

SUNDAY, August 29

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
 O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Alan Byrne
 Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien
 Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex
 Yuk Yuk's: Tracey MacDonald

MONDAY, August 30

Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 O'Reilly's: Larry Foley & Patrick Moran
 Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power
 Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays - Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, August 31

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band
 Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
 Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays - "2 for 1" w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, September 1

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Junctions: Adam Baxter
 The Martini Bar: Acoustic Trio Wednesday with Stixx and Stones
 The Ship: Folk Night
 Shamrock City Pub: The Navigators
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: (10PM) Wacky Wednesdays w/ Dave White

THURSDAY, September 2

Greensleeves: Unlisted
 O' Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
 Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Allyson Smith

What To Do? (For Artists)

Call For Submissions to Riddle Fence #7: Unpublished works of fiction, creative non-fiction & artwork. One piece, 5,000 words max or 3 pcs. of art. Fee: \$30 Deadline: Sept. 1; email fiction@riddlefence.com, non-fiction@riddlefence.com; artwork@riddlefence.com

Call for Submissions: The Rooms is seeking submissions for the 2010 Provincial Art Bank Program. Visit <http://www.therooms.ca/artgallery/pab.asp> or call 757-8047. NOTE: Changes have been made to submission guidelines. Deadline: Sept. 10, 2010

Talented female lyricist/poet for semi-pop song writing collaboration (ie: Joni Mitchell, Sarah McLaughlin Paul Simon etc. Singing/instrument an asset but not essential. Email aewpike@hotmail.com

Anna Templeton Centre (Duckworth) contact for info re: adult and youth classes, workshops

Clay Cafe (39 Commonwealth Ave, Mount Pearl 745-2345): open til 9PM

Devon House Clay Studio - open studio times, contact for info

GALLERY LISTINGS

The Craft Council Gallery (Devon House, Duckworth Street; www.craftcouncil.nl.ca)

Leyton Gallery, Clift-Baird's Lane Call 722-7177 or www.theleytongallery.com for info.

The Rooms: (www.therooms.ca Wednesdays 6pm-9pm are Free, 9 Bonaventure Ave. 757-8000)

SPECIAL EVENTS LISTINGS

Pouch Cove Open Studios (Aug 28/29, 12-5pm) Local artists open their homes and studios to showcase their work. For map & locations: www.pouchcoveopenstudios.com

Weaving the Wind by Ed Kavanagh (Basilica Museum, Thursdays, July-Aug., 1pm) Celtic harp recital in its 5th season.

Early Bird Watch (MUN Botanical Garden, every 2nd Sunday, 8am) Meet in the parking lot, free, call 737-8590

Comic Jam (Hava Java, last Monday of every month, 7PM, free)

St. John's Farmers' Market (Saturdays, 10am-2pm, June - Nov.), Lion's Club Chalet, Bonaventure Avenue

Free Internet: Love of Learning offers free internet and computer use for resilient youth between 15 & 35, noon to 6pm, weekdays, Gower Street United Church. For info, www.fortheloveoflearning.org or call Darcy at 722-8848.

Hurling Training on-going weekly. Contact Brendan Toland at: Yellowbellys_SJ_GAA_Club@yahoo.ca

For The Love of Learning (weekdays, 12pm-6pm, Free to youth 15-35): 99 Gower Street. Classes in world religion, philosophy, folklore, art, theatre, resume-building. Free lunch at 1PM (722-4846)

Mall Walkers' Club: (Avalon Mall, Thursdays, 8:45am) (737-2333)

The Pottle Centre: (323 Hamilton Avenue, social and recreational programs for users of mental health services) 753-2143

Seniors Bridging Culture: (Seniors Resource Centre, Thursdays, 2pm) Tea, guest speakers, and

conversation (737-2333)

Seniors Friendship Club: (Seniors Resource Centre, Fridays, 2pm 737-2333)

Shambhala Meditation Group: (Billy Rahal Fieldhouse, rear Elizabeth Towers) Free meditation practice. Call 576-4727 or visit <http://stjohns.shambhala.org>

Traditional Latin Mass: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin) celebrated on Sundays, 5:15PM at St. Pius X Church, Latin-English Missals & resources provided. For info or a free Visitor's Guide to the Latin Mass call 722-4842 or unavoce.sopc@gmail.com

St. John's City Council Meeting: (City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, Mondays, 4:30pm) Public welcome, see agenda www.stjohns.ca, posted Friday afternoons

Overeaters Anonymous: If your eating habits are making you unhappy and putting you at risk for serious health problems, you can do something about it. Call 738-1742 or www.oa.org

Tango On The Edge - Argentine Tango: (Thursdays 8:30-10:30, RCA Club, 10 Bennett Ave) guest artist Amira Campora from Buenos Aires, June 25-27, www.tangoonthedge.ca.


The Arthritis Society is looking for volunteers to assist with The Jingle Bell Walk and Run occurring in St. John's mid November. If you are interested in lending your time and skills to this worthwhile cause please contact Jennifer at jneary@nl.arthritis.ca or 579-8190

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MY MESSY BEDROOM

NATURAL BORN CHEATER?

WHY GIVE UP ALL THAT RELATIONSHIP TENDING FOR FLOWERS THAT WON'T LAST LONG?

BY JOSEY VOGLES

Went in head first; "So did anything actually ever happen between you and her," once asked of a Boyfriend Past. "No, in fact, I'm proud to say I have always been faithful to you," he announced proudly. Silence. The face suddenly staring at me, eyebrows cocked, was asking the obvious question, "And, you?" Deer caught in the headlights. "Well, uh...", my brain did a quick rundown of what amongst my generally flirtatious behaviour during that two-year, less-than-solid relationship, constituted cheating. "There was this one time...", was the slow reply, finally settling on a little fling that was still (f)lingering. If there were others, and not saying there were, they didn't mean anything. Why stir things up more than necessary? Besides, the real issue was why, wasn't it? That was easy. It was all his fault, of course. He hadn't been exactly going out of his way to make me feel secure, he hadn't been giving me enough attention, and, hey, he was the one who never wanted to go out with me and my friends, leaving me open to temptation. What was a girl to do? Pretty clever. Suddenly, it wasn't about my bad behaviour, it was about his, and us.

So why, really? In fact, up to that point in relationships, fidelity had never been my strong point. A similarly infidelity-inclined girlfriend spent many hours in conversation on this one. Why was it that in every relationship, both of us eventually succumbed to temptation and fooled around? Insecurity? Approval? The guys who weren't fulfilling needs? Maybe it is

simply in our nature? Sure, that one. There have even been some scientific studies to back it up. Infidelity may be in the genes, they say. Then again, some would say the urge to kill is natural too. And folks manage to avoid acting on that one. According to this Boyfriend Past's take on fooling around, there was simply no willpower and conviction. "As soon as I'm involved with someone, the option is simply ruled out," he said matter-of-factly. Wow. Impressive -- not convinced, mind you -- but impressed. His approach seemed so simple. Too simple. Almost suspicious. Where did he store all those feelings? How could he put all his eggs in one basket? What if someone better was to come along and he missed the boat? And what about all those other great reasons for why, even when in a seemingly happy relationship, you constantly find your eyes darting around the bar or flirting heavily with someone you've just met?

Okay, so you might be secretly trying to sabotage your relationship, or trying to fill a void in your less-than-satisfactory relationship that you're too much of a coward to leave or don't want to work on it because it's much easier to jump in bed with someone new to recapture the spark. But there's all that good stuff too. Truth of the matter is, sex with someone new is fun. There's something to be said for a quick thrill. Sure it's risky. But so is diving out of planes. And lots of people love doing that. What's wrong with a little instant gratification? Having someone take an interest in you,

when your partner temporarily loses sight of what a truly wonderful person you are, can be ego building. And don't they always like you better when you're feeling confident? Ah, but then the consequences. And herein lies the kicker. What's at stake if you're caught (like almost always)? This is heavy and is often the first thing tossed out the window when it comes to affairs (abandon is half the excitement, after all), but it's definitely worth a moment of time before you act on your impulse. If you're with someone who's less than open-minded (read: most human beings) and who might not be able to pick up the pieces when they find out you might want to think twice. Is it really worth the temporary thrill?

Deciding to remain faithful doesn't mean you won't be attracted to anyone else ever again, or that your partner won't bore you or drive you crazy sometimes. It does mean, that when he or she does, you won't bail, or look for a fresh hit. Instead, you would do better to remind yourself that that the person you're with was new once too. If you stop and think about it, cheating is rarely worth the risk. When you think of all the things you get out of staying with the same person, all the reasons why the familiarity and predictability that sometimes bores you also makes a long-term relationship worth it, even exciting. This person knows you, has accepted you in your everyday underwear and can deal with moods; they know your body and weird habits and they still likes you.

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CAN WE TALK?

JOAN RIVERS ON HER NEW DOCUMENTARY, MEL GIBSON & OTHERS!

BY RICHARD BURNETT

"No man has ever told me I'm beautiful," legendary stand-up comic and pop icon Joan Rivers admits in this summer's hit documentary film *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*. So Bugs called Ms. Rivers in NYC this past weekend, at the QVC studio getting her hair blow-dried to say, "I like what you've done with your plastic surgery and I think you're beautiful!"

"Well, thank you," laughs Rivers, "but it's too late!" Still, no one else in showbiz would dare do what Rivers has, and that's appear without any make-up in the opening sequence of the film. It's unflinching, it's mesmerizing and Rivers -- all 5'2" of her -- is still every inch a gracious diva. "That was the filmmakers' choice," Rivers says. "I thought it was a brilliant way to start. I didn't freak out. I think one of the reasons this film has been so successful is no punches were pulled."

A Piece of Work wowed audiences at Sundance, has grossed over \$2-million since June 11 (just four docs have crossed the \$1-million mark this year) and the critics are all raving. Writes Roger Ebert, "Rivers was 75 in this film and never tires of reminding us. She remains one of the funniest, dirtiest, most daring and transgressive of standup comics, and she hasn't missed a beat. The doc follows her for a year as she relentlessly pursues the career. She violates her own privacy, speaks from the heart, does not know tact, and makes us laugh a lot. If you've only seen Rivers on TV, you ain't seen nothin' yet."

Rivers says in the doc she only really feels alive when she's performing on stage, but won't encourage anyone to get into the cutthroat showbiz. "There's no dichotomy there at all -- if you have to be in this business, then you should be in this business. It's not a choice. It's not like trying to be an engineer. This business is so devastating and so few people make it that you better want it with all your heart." That's why Rivers also believes gay teen idols should stay in the closet. Ricky Martin -- whom was outed in this column in March 2001 because he enjoyed all the protections and privileges of the gay community without giving back -- did it right, Rivers says. "I think you should come out when you want to come out," Rivers tells me. "Ricky Martin was smart. He was a teen idol for all these girls. He would have been a fool to come out and say, 'I'm gay, and now I'm going to live a nice simple life working for Tim Horton's!' I thought he handled it well and he never denied it."

The last encounter with Rivers was this past spring in New York when she hosted a penthouse party to celebrate Michael Musto's 25 years at the Village Voice. Media whores flocked to Rivers if only to bask in her stardust for a few moments. Rivers didn't mind it a bit. "How wonderful is it that people still want to meet you after all these years?" In a well-documented rollercoaster career that has spanned close to half a century -- from the time Rivers stayed one night at Montreal's YWCA in the 1960s to being blacklisted

in Hollywood in the 1990s after leaving *The Tonight Show* as its permanent guest host ("It's [really] because I'm a Vegas comic and I've been around too long and I don't socialize with people I should socialize with and I don't play the game") -- the last two years have found Rivers back on top, beginning with her huge 2009 winning season on Donald Trump's *Celebrity Apprentice* ("It's not an Oscar," Rivers candidly admits in the doc.) "But I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop," says Rivers. "Right now everybody loves me. It feels great, but you also know it's a transient state."

Rivers comments freely on other showbiz careers, like those of Bill Cosby ("A great performer also lost in the shuffle these days"), Mel Gibson ("Absolute scum of the earth") and the newly booming career of Michael Jackson ("I only wish I had a son that could have spent one night with him so we could have gotten \$35-million!"). Rivers -- who hosted the world's first-ever AIDS benefit -- is delighted to hear she is "the celebrity the least full of shit I have ever met." Rivers has kept her humanity in the face of celebrity and her survivor instinct has made her a gay icon. "I have always loved gay men," says the woman who was once engaged to a gay man. "They have sensibility and style. I love them and they know it."

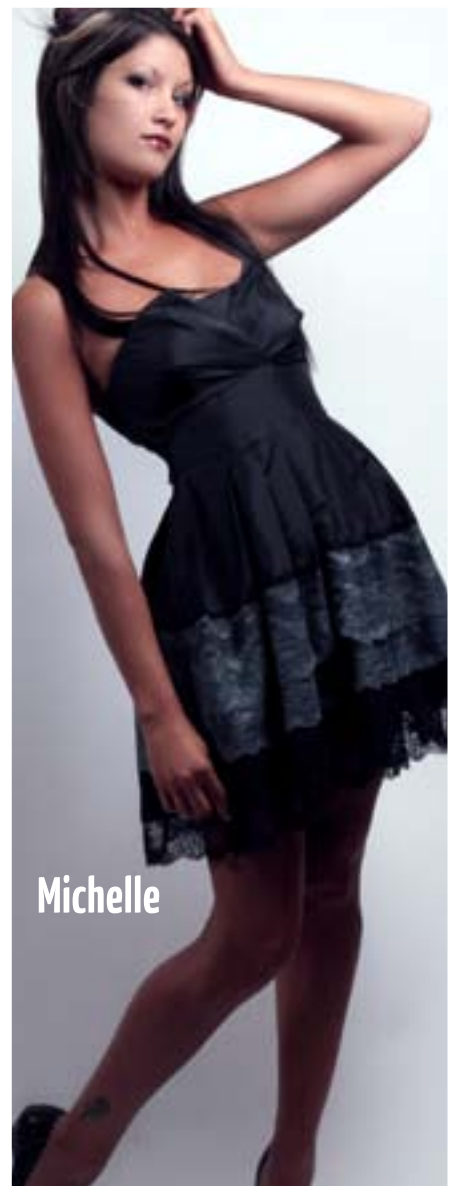
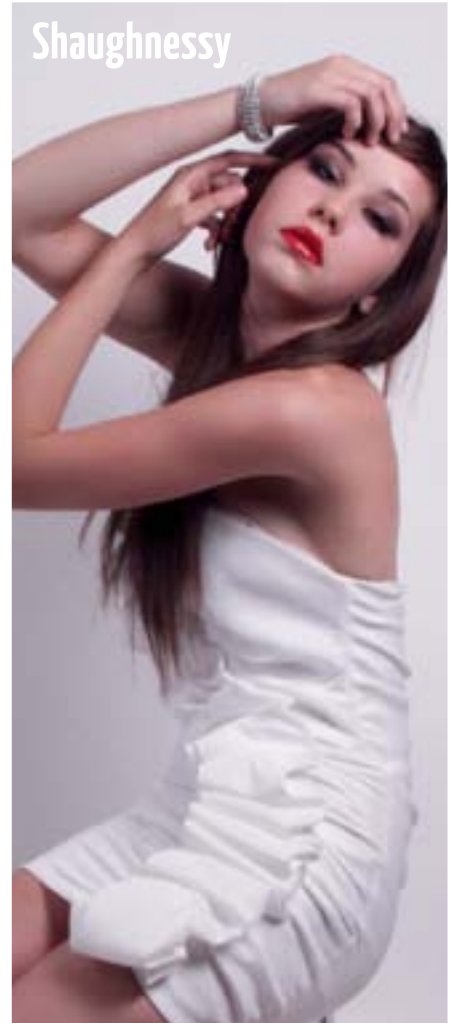


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